

2023 INDEX OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

Bylaws

Bylaws Proposal No. NB 1..... Page 03

USBC National Bylaws
Article VI, Meetings
Section A., Annual Meeting

Allows for offsite voting at the USBC Annual Meeting.

Proposer: Douglas Sass
Walkersville, MD

Bylaws Proposal No. SB 1 Page 06

USBC State Bylaws
Article VII, Meetings
Section B., Board Meeting

Authorizes the board to utilize mail, email or teleconference for voting.

Proposer: USBC Legislative Committee

Bylaws Proposal No. LB 1..... Page 07

USBC Local Bylaws
Article V, Board of Directors - Management
Section C., Election of Directors

Allows the board to adopt a requirement for the submission of qualifications of up to 48 hours prior to the start of the meeting where director elections will be held.

Proposers: Greater Houston USBC (TX)

Bylaws Proposal No. LB 2 Page 08

USBC Local Bylaws
Article VI, Officers
Section B., Election

Allows the board to adopt a requirement for the submission of qualifications of up to 48 hours prior to the start of the meeting where officer elections will be held.

Proposer: Greater Houston USBC (TX)

Bylaws Proposal No. LB 3..... Page 09

USBC Local Bylaws
Article VII, Meetings
Section B. Board Meetings

Authorizes the board to utilize mail, email or teleconference for voting.

Proposer: USBC Legislative Committee

League Rules

Rules Proposal No. LR 1 Page 10

USBC Playing Rules
Chapter 4, League Rules
Rule 108b – Averages – How Established

Allows the player to utilize deliveries executed with either hand during the same game to establish an average.

Proposer: James Stidvent
Tucson, AZ

Rules Proposal No. LR 2 Page 12

USBC Playing Rules
Chapter 4, League Rules
Rule 119c, Forfeits – Procedure for Bowling

In all forfeiture situations, the non-forfeiting team will receive all contested points.

Proposer: Joann Budreau
Tucson, AZ

Tournament Rules

Rules Proposal No. TR 1..... Page 14

USBC Playing Rules
Chapter 6, Tournament Rules
Rule 319a, Averages - Conditions that Apply

Requires the use of composite averages for tournament entry unless the tournament rules state otherwise.

Proposer: Phyllis Branche
Fresno, CA

Rules Proposal No. TR 2 Page 16

USBC Playing Rules
Chapter 6, Tournament Rules
Rule 328, Changing Delivery

Allows the player to utilize deliveries executed with either hand during all tournament competition.

Proposer: James Stidvent
Tucson, AZ

BYLAWS PROPOSAL NO. NB 1

Decision

- Approve
 Reject

PRESENT BYLAW...
USBC National Bylaws
Article IV, Meetings
Section A. Annual Meeting

An Annual Meeting of USBC is held at a time and place approved by the Board of Directors. Attendance is open to all members.

1. **Delegates.** "Delegates" are defined as individuals, who hold USBC membership, 18 years of age or older at the time of election, who are elected from associations according to these Bylaws. Delegate's term of office is from August 1 through July 31 of each year.
2. **Voting and Speaking.** Voting at the USBC Annual Meeting is by Delegates, USBC Officers and Directors who are not elected Delegates may nevertheless vote as Delegates at the USBC Annual Meeting. All votes of the Voting Members at the Annual Meeting shall be cast by electronic ballot which shall be the sole method for determining votes at the Annual Meeting unless the President in his or her sole discretion determines the circumstances reasonably require a different method of voting. All members (including the Voting Members) in good standing as of the date of the Annual Meeting may be permitted to address the members at the Annual Meeting. Other USBC members may address the USBC Annual Meeting but may not vote. Absentee and proxy voting are not permitted.
3. **Delegate Representation.**
 - a. Each merged state association in good standing representing men, women and youth, may elect two Delegates and two Alternate Delegates to the USBC Annual Meeting. Each non-merged state association in good standing may elect one Delegate and one Alternate Delegate to the USBC Annual Meeting;
 - b. The number of Delegates to which a local association is entitled will be based on USBC's records of the association's fiscal year membership as of July 31, the year prior to the USBC's Annual Meeting. Each local association in good standing with USBC, with the exception of affiliate associations, are entitled to Delegates to the USBC Annual Meeting. Associations with youth would base their membership on USBC Youth members bowling in USBC Leagues within the association's jurisdiction, as follows:
 - 1) Less than 500 members - two Delegates and one Alternate Delegate;
 - 2) 500 members or more - two Delegates and one Alternate Delegate for the first 500 members and one Delegate and one Alternate Delegate for each additional 500 members or major fraction thereof with a maximum of 30 Delegates;
 - c. Newly-chartered local bowling associations, with no membership numbers recorded by July 31st, the year prior to the USBC's Annual Meeting, may elect one Delegate and one Alternate Delegate to the USBC Annual Meeting;
 - d. A state or local association whose charter has been suspended or revoked, or an association that is delinquent in processing dues for the current bowling season, is not considered "in good standing" for purposes of Delegates or Alternate Delegates attending the USBC Annual Meeting;
 - e. Athletes, as defined in these Bylaws, are eligible to serve as Delegates.
 - f. USBC Board of Directors;
 - g. For all purposes, voting power is the sum of items a through f.
4. **Delegate Responsibilities.** Delegates vote to:
 - a. Amend and approve the National, state and local mandatory bylaws, with the exception of provisions for compliance with USOC rules and regulations, provisions related to Athletes and Youth, and other provisions mandated by the Articles of Incorporation or applicable law;
 - b. Establish standard maximum adult dues for National and state;
 - c. Elect Directors to fill open positions on the Board that are subject to election by the Delegates;
 - d. Approve adult league rules, and adult tournament rules for the sport of bowling.
5. **Meeting Notice.** Written notice of the USBC Annual Meeting is provided to Delegates and chartered state and local bowling associations in good standing at least 30 days in advance of the USBC Annual Meeting.
6. **Quorum.** The presence of 100 Delegates establishes a quorum for the transaction of business at the USBC Annual Meeting.
7. **Action.** Elections by the Delegates are conducted according to policies and procedures established by the Nominating Committee and approved by the Board. The action of a majority of Delegates present and voting, when a quorum has been established, carries a motion unless otherwise provided in the Articles of

Incorporation or these Bylaws. Absentee and proxy voting and other types of voting agreements are not permitted.

PROPOSAL...

Add “, whether able to attend in-person or remotely via electronic means” to the end of the first paragraph.

In Item 2:

Replace “at” with “during” in the second sentence.

Add a new third sentence to state:

“Voting members attending the Annual Meeting remotely may continue to contribute their vote by electronic means.”

Add “either in-person or remotely via electronic means.” to the fourth sentence.

To Item 5, add “Instructions for attending the Annual Meeting either in-person or via electronic means will be available.” as a new last sentence.

To Item 6 add “whether attending in person or remotely via electronic means”.

In Item 7:

Add “They shall provide for Delegates to vote either in-person or remotely via electronic means.” As a new second sentence

Delete “present and” and add “either in-person or remotely via electronics means” to the third sentence

If adopted, Section A will state:

An Annual Meeting of USBC is held at a time and place approved by the Board of Directors. Attendance is open to all members, whether able to attend in person or remotely via electronic means.

1. **Delegates.** "Delegates" are defined as individuals, who hold USBC membership, 18 years of age or older at the time of election, who are elected from associations according to these Bylaws. Delegate's term of office is from August 1 through July 31 of each year.
2. **Voting and Speaking.** Voting at the USBC Annual Meeting is by Delegates, USBC Officers and Directors who are not elected Delegates may nevertheless vote as Delegates at the USBC Annual Meeting. All votes of the Voting Members during the Annual Meeting shall be cast by electronic ballot which shall be the sole method for determining votes at the Annual Meeting unless the President in his or her sole discretion determines the circumstances reasonably require a different method of voting. Voting members attending the Annual Meeting remotely may continue to contribute their vote by electronic means. All members (including the Voting Members) in good standing as of the date of the Annual Meeting may be permitted to address the members at the Annual Meeting either in-person or remotely via electronic means. Other USBC members may address the USBC Annual Meeting but may not vote. Absentee and proxy voting are not permitted.
3. **Delegate Representation.**
 - a. Each merged state association in good standing representing men, women and youth, may elect two Delegates and two Alternate Delegates to the USBC Annual Meeting. Each non-merged state association in good standing may elect one Delegate and one Alternate Delegate to the USBC Annual Meeting;
 - b. The number of Delegates to which a local association is entitled will be based on USBC's records of the association's fiscal year membership as of July 31, the year prior to the USBC's Annual Meeting. Each local association in good standing with USBC, with the exception of affiliate associations, are entitled to Delegates to the USBC Annual Meeting. Associations with youth would base their membership on USBC Youth members bowling in USBC Leagues within the association's jurisdiction, as follows:
 - 1) Less than 500 members - two Delegates and one Alternate Delegate;
 - 2) 500 members or more - two Delegates and one Alternate Delegate for the first 500 members and one Delegate and one Alternate Delegate for each additional 500 members or major fraction thereof with a maximum of 30 Delegates;
 - c. Newly-chartered local bowling associations, with no membership numbers recorded by July 31st, the year prior to the USBC's Annual Meeting, may elect one Delegate and one Alternate Delegate to the USBC Annual Meeting;

- d. A state or local association whose charter has been suspended or revoked, or an association that is delinquent in processing dues for the current bowling season, is not considered "in good standing" for purposes of Delegates or Alternate Delegates attending the USBC Annual Meeting;
 - e. Athletes, as defined in these Bylaws, are eligible to serve as Delegates.
 - f. USBC Hall of Fame members;
 - g. USBC Board of Directors;
 - h. For all purposes, voting power is the sum of items a through f.
4. **Delegate Responsibilities.** Delegates vote to:
- a. Amend and approve the National, state and local mandatory bylaws, with the exception of provisions for compliance with USOC rules and regulations, provisions related to Athletes and Youth, and other provisions mandated by the Articles of Incorporation or applicable law;
 - b. Establish standard maximum adult dues for National and state;
 - c. Elect Directors to fill open positions on the Board that are subject to election by the Delegates;
 - d. Approve adult league rules, and adult tournament rules for the sport of bowling.
5. **Meeting Notice.** Written notice of the USBC Annual Meeting is provided to Delegates and chartered state and local bowling associations in good standing at least 30 days in advance of the USBC Annual Meeting. Instructions for attending the Annual Meeting either in-person or via electronic means, will be available.
6. **Quorum.** The presence of 100 Delegates whether attending in person or remotely via electronic means establishes a quorum for the transaction of business at the USBC Annual Meeting.
7. **Action.** Elections by the Delegates are conducted according to policies and procedures established by the Nominating Committee and approved by the Board. They shall provide for Delegates to vote either in-person or remotely via electronic means. The action of a majority of Delegates voting, either in-person or remotely via electronic means, when a quorum has been established, carries a motion unless otherwise provided in the Articles of Incorporation or these Bylaws. Absentee and proxy voting are not permitted.

If adopted, Article IV, Section A and Article VIII Amendments will be codified to conform.

REASON FOR PROPOSAL....

Last year, more than half of the delegates voted in favor of this proposal, which is geared to allow every delegate in every state the opportunity to have their voices heard and their members' interests represented at the Annual Meeting, even if for whatever reason-work, finances, family, etc-they are unable to attend the meeting in person.

As a delegate from Alaska mentioned, the cost is high, and it is very hard for their delegates to make it to the meeting. As someone who works a full-time position and spends a great deal of my allotted PTO to travel with my son to scholarship tournaments (including the 2022 Junior Gold Championships), I can't consider being a delegate due to my other obligations. Many smaller associations simply do not have the funds to send delegates, and in some areas the delegates simply can't put that kind of money out of pocket for the time spent at the Convention.

It should be stressed that the Convention is a good thing, and that all those who can participate in person should do so! There is plenty to learn and people to meet. But just as we proved during COVID, the meeting can be successfully run with electronic voting, held at the exact same time the in-person voting takes place.

We need our members to feel heard, because that is part of what they pay for as a sanctioned bowler. Members choose when changes are needed, and members vote on whether or not those changes should take place. Delegates are chosen each year to speak for those members. Let's be sure that the changes that our Governing Body adopts, the people our Governing Body nominates for Board positions, are representative of the feelings of all of our members, not just those who are able to attend in person.

Presented by: Douglas Sass
Walkersville, MD

No recommendation by the USBC Board of Directors

BYLAWS PROPOSAL NO. SB 1

Decision

- Approve
 Reject

PRESENT BYLAW...

USBC State Bylaws Article VII, Meetings Section B. Board Meeting

The Board shall meet, at a minimum, as often as required by state law. Special meetings may be held upon the request of any board member if a majority of the board approves.

1. Notice. Written notice for all regular and special meetings shall be forwarded to the Board, which should be at least 15 days prior to the meeting.
2. Quorum. Click or tap here to enter text. board members constitute a quorum. The board, adult members and youth representatives determine the number. (Must be a number and not a percentage.)
3. Action. A majority vote of those officers and directors present and voting, at a properly noticed meeting, when a quorum has been established, is required to take action, unless otherwise provided by law or these bylaws. Absentee and proxy voting are not permitted.
4. Action(s) Without a Meeting. Actions that are deemed necessary to conduct business/operations of the association may be taken outside of a board meeting by use of mail, e-mail, or teleconferencing. This type of action must be permissible by state law and approved by the board, adult members and youth representatives.
 - a. The procedures found in the USBC Association Policy Manual, Chapter Ten, Section E must be followed.
 - b. The association Choose an item. allow the board to vote via mail, e-mail, or teleconference.

PROPOSAL...

In Item 4

Delete “adult members and youth representatives” from the last sentence,

In Item b, delete “The association (choose an item) allow”, replace “to” with “may” and add “if permissible by state law.”

If adopted, bylaws will read:

The Board shall meet, at a minimum, as often as required by state law. Special meetings may be held upon the request of any board member if a majority of the board approves.

1. Notice. Written notice for all regular and special meetings shall be forwarded to the Board, which should be at least 15 days prior to the meeting.
2. Quorum. Click or tap here to enter text. board members constitute a quorum. The board, adult members and youth representatives determine the number. (Must be a number and not a percentage.)
3. Action. A majority vote of those officers and directors present and voting, at a properly noticed meeting, when a quorum has been established, is required to take action, unless otherwise provided by law or these bylaws. Absentee and proxy voting are not permitted.
4. Action(s) Without a Meeting. Actions that are deemed necessary to conduct business/operations of the association may be taken outside of a board meeting by use of mail, e-mail, or teleconferencing. This type of action must be permissible by state law and approved by the board.
 - a. The procedures found in the USBC Association Policy Manual, Chapter Ten, Section E must be followed.
 - b. The board may vote via mail, e-mail, or teleconference if permissible by state law. (This action also applies to committees.)

REASON FOR PROPOSAL....

The ability for an association’s board to vote via mail, e-mail or teleconference is currently subject to a vote of the state delegates. This is a board efficiency issue. Since the board members know the best options to operate efficiently and effectively, this option should be determined by the board of directors without a required delegate vote.

Presented by: USBC Board of Directors

BYLAWS PROPOSAL NO. LB 1

Decision

- Approve
 Reject

PRESENT BYLAW...

USBC Local Bylaws

Article V, Board of Directors – Management

Section C. Election of Directors

All Directors are:

1. Elected by the board, adult members and youth representatives.
2. Elected by majority vote, unless plurality vote is adopted, by the board, adult members and youth representatives. They are elected by (Choose an item.) **vote**.
 - a. A slate.
 - b. Nominations from the floor.

Qualifications must be submitted in a format specified by the board.

Voting will be by those individuals present and voting and by ballot if there is more than one nominee for each position.

PROPOSAL...

Add the following sentence to the second paragraph: “The board may require qualifications to be submitted up to 48 hours prior to the start of the meeting where elections will be held.”

If adopted, Article V, Section C will read:

All Directors are:

1. Elected by the board, adult members and youth representatives.
2. Elected by majority vote, unless plurality vote is adopted, by the board, adult members and youth representatives. They are elected by (Choose an item.) **vote**.
 - a. A slate.
 - b. Nominations from the floor.

Qualifications must be submitted in a format specified by the board. The board may require qualifications to be submitted up to 48 hours prior to the start of the meeting where elections will be held.

Voting will be by those individuals present and voting and by ballot if there is more than one nominee for each position.

REASON FOR PROPOSAL...

Qualifications being submitted later than 48 hours prior to the opening of the annual meeting in an association with a large number of members, does not give enough time for credentials to be verified.

Presented by: Greater Houston USBC

Recommended for Approval by the USBC Board of Directors

BYLAWS PROPOSAL NO. LB 2

Decision

- Approve
 Reject

PRESENT BYLAW...

USBC Local Bylaws

Article VI, Officers

Section B. Election

The board, adult members and youth representatives determine the election process. **(Check one)**

1. Officers are elected by a majority vote of the board from among the current Directors, unless state laws mandate otherwise; or
2. Officers are elected by a majority vote of the board, adult members and youth representatives, present and voting from:
 - a. A slate.
 - b. Nominations from the floor.

Qualifications must be submitted in a format specified by the board.

Voting will be by ballot if there is more than one nominee for each position.

PROPOSAL...

Add the following sentence to the second paragraph: “The board may require qualifications to be submitted up to 48 hours prior to the start of the meeting where elections will be held.”

If adopted, Article VI, Section B will read:

The board, adult members and youth representatives determine the election process. **(Check one)**

1. Officers are elected by a majority vote of the board from among the current Directors, unless state laws mandate otherwise; or
2. Officers are elected by a majority vote of the board, adult members and youth representatives, present and voting from:
 - a. A slate.
 - b. Nominations from the floor.

Qualifications must be submitted in a format specified by the board. The board may require qualifications to be submitted up to 48 hours prior to the start of the meeting where elections will be held.

Voting will be by ballot if there is more than one nominee for each position.

REASON FOR PROPOSAL...

Qualifications being submitted less than 48 hours prior to the opening of the annual meeting in an association with a large number of members, does not give enough time for credentials to be verified.

Presented by: Greater Houston USBC

Recommended for Approval by the USBC Board of Directors

BYLAWS PROPOSAL NO. LB 3

Decision

- Approve
 Reject

PRESENT BYLAW...

USBC Local Bylaws Article VII, Meetings Section B. Board Meeting

The Board shall meet, at a minimum, as often as required by state law. Special meetings may be held upon the request of any board member if a majority of the board approves.

1. Notice. Written notice for all regular and special meetings shall be forwarded to the Board, which should be at least 15 days prior to the meeting.
2. Quorum. Click or tap here to enter text. board members constitute a quorum. The board, adult members and youth representatives determine the number. (Must be a number and not a percentage.)
3. Action. A majority vote of those officers and directors present and voting, at a properly noticed meeting, when a quorum has been established, is required to take action, unless otherwise provided by law or these bylaws. Absentee and proxy voting are not permitted.
4. Action(s) Without a Meeting. Actions that are deemed necessary to conduct business/operations of the association may be taken outside of a board meeting by use of mail, e-mail, or teleconferencing. This type of action must be permissible by state law and approved by the board, adult members and youth representatives.
 - a. The procedures found in the USBC Association Policy Manual, Chapter Ten, Section E must be followed.
 - b. The association Choose an item. allow the board to vote via mail, e-mail, or teleconference.

PROPOSAL...

In Item 4:

Delete “adult members and youth representatives” from the last sentence,

In Item b, delete “The association (choose an item) allow”, replace “to” with “may” and add “if permissible by state law.”

If adopted, bylaws will read:

The Board shall meet, at a minimum, as often as required by state law. Special meetings may be held upon the request of any board member if a majority of the board approves.

1. Notice. Written notice for all regular and special meetings shall be forwarded to the Board, which should be at least 15 days prior to the meeting.
2. Quorum. Click or tap here to enter text. board members constitute a quorum. The board, adult members and youth representatives determine the number. (Must be a number and not a percentage.)
3. Action. A majority vote of those officers and directors present and voting, at a properly noticed meeting, when a quorum has been established, is required to take action, unless otherwise provided by law or these bylaws. Absentee and proxy voting are not permitted.
4. Action(s) Without a Meeting. Actions that are deemed necessary to conduct business/operations of the association may be taken outside of a board meeting by use of mail, e-mail, or teleconferencing. This type of action must be permissible by state law and approved by the board, adult members and youth representatives.
 - a. The procedures found in the *USBC Association Policy Manual*, Chapter Ten, Section E must be followed.
 - b. The board may vote via mail, e-mail, or teleconference if permissible by state law. (This action also applies to committees.)

REASON FOR PROPOSAL....

The ability for an association’s board to vote via mail, e-mail or teleconference is currently subject to a vote of the membership. This is a board efficiency issue. Since the board members know the best options to operate efficiently and effectively, this option should be determined by the board of directors without a required membership vote.

Presented by: USBC Board of Directors

RULES PROPOSAL NO. LR 1

Decision

- Approve
 Reject

PRESENT RULE...

**USBC Playing Rules,
Chapter: 4, League Rules
Rule 108b – Averages – How Established**

Each league shall adopt a rule to determine the number of games required to establish an average in that league. The following applies when establishing an average:

1. A right-handed bowler must always bowl right-handed. Similarly, a left-handed bowler must always bowl left-handed.

Penalty: Forfeiture of game.

2. No combination of scores bowled both right- and left-handed can be used to compute an average, except as stipulated in Rule 4c.
3. The league's board of directors may, by majority vote, adjust a player's average before the player bowls in the league or during the season due to injury or disability. Separate averages must be maintained.
4. Adult leagues: The league's board of directors may, with two-thirds vote, adjust a player's average upward during the season. Separate averages must be maintained. The bowler must use the adjusted average or established league average (whichever is higher) for the remainder of the season.
5. Youth leagues: A bowler using a two-handed delivery will establish an average with two hands. When the bowler changes to a one-handed delivery, they must establish a new average using that hand.

PROPOSAL...

Delete current Items 1 & 2 and replace with a new Item 1 which states:

A player may, at any time, alternate their delivery from either left-, or right-hand delivery or to a two-hand delivery at any time during league competition. Using any method of delivery sequence to establish one average for league competition is allowed.

If adopted, Rule 108b will read:

Each league shall adopt a rule to determine the number of games required to establish an average in that league. The following applies when establishing an average:

1. A player may, at any time, alternate their delivery from either left-, or right-hand delivery or to a two-hand delivery at any time during league competition. Using any method of delivery sequence to establish one average for league competition is allowed.
2. The league's board of directors may, by majority vote, adjust a player's average before the player bowls in the league or during the season due to injury or disability. Separate averages must be maintained.
3. Adult leagues: The league's board of directors may, with two-thirds vote, adjust a player's average upward during the season. Separate averages must be maintained. The bowler must use the adjusted average or established league average (whichever is higher) for the remainder of the season.
4. Youth leagues: A bowler using a two-handed delivery will establish an average with two hands. When the bowler changes to a one-handed delivery, they must establish a new average using that hand.

REASON FOR PROPOSAL

A bowler should be able to use their knowledge and their ability to deliver the ball on the lane, using any delivery style at any time, to adjust to the lane conditions to score as much as possible during any given competition, league, or tournament.

Presented by: James Stidvent
Tucson, AZ

Recommended for Rejection by the USBC Board of Directors

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION: Allowing an individual to alternate the hand used for deliveries while establishing an average provides the opportunity for manipulation of the individual's average.

Decision

- Approve
 Reject

RULES PROPOSAL NO. LR 2

PRESENT RULE...

**USBC Playing Rules,
Chapter 4, League Rules
Rule 119c., Forfeits - Procedure for Bowling**

When a team is bowling in a known forfeit situation, the following procedures shall apply:

1. The forfeiting team is not to receive any point(s).
2. Unless the league rules have stated another number, to earn the point(s):
 - a. An individual must bowl at least his/her average less ten (10) pins.
 - b. Teams must bowl at least the team average less ten (10) pins per player.
3. Points not won by the individual and/or team for failing to bowl the target score should be recorded on the standing sheet as "unearned" points.
4. The following applies to players on the forfeiting team:
 - a. Those who are present may bowl, but the scores shall not be included in the team's total pins.
 - b. Scores bowled in accordance with this procedure shall be counted toward averages and qualify for league prizes, unless the league rules state otherwise.
 - c. Scores shall qualify for USBC awards.

NOTE: When leagues include series totals in points won and a team forfeits one or more games in a series, that team shall receive a zero for the games it forfeits in deciding the winner of the series point. When a league determines position standings on a percentage basis, the percentage is calculated by dividing the number of points won by the total number of points available to the team. (The total number of points available includes points won, lost and unearned through forfeit situations.)

PROPOSAL...

Delete current Items 2 and 3. Renumber current Item 1 as Item 2. Add a new Item 1 to state: "The non-forfeiting team will receive all points available."

If adopted, Rule 119c will read:

When a team is bowling in a known forfeit situation, the following procedures shall apply:

1. The non-forfeiting team will receive all points available.
2. The forfeiting team is not to receive any point(s).
3. The following applies to players on the forfeiting team:
 - a. Those who are present may bowl, but the scores shall not be included in the team's total pins.
 - b. Scores bowled in accordance with this procedure shall be counted toward averages and qualify for league prizes, unless the league rules state otherwise.
 - c. Scores shall qualify for USBC awards.

NOTE: When leagues include series totals in points won and a team forfeits one or more games in a series, that team shall receive a zero for the games it forfeits in deciding the winner of the series point. When a league determines position standings on a percentage basis, the percentage is calculated by dividing the number of points won by the total number of points available to the team. (The total number of points available includes points won, lost and unearned through forfeit situations.)

REASON FOR PROPOSAL....

We disagree with how the process of a forfeit is defined and feel when a team "forfeits" or does not show up for games, then the present team wins ALL points and does not have to come within a certain amount of pins to win the points. Many members of several leagues that I bowl in have questioned the rule, along with myself.

Presented by: Joann Budreau
Tucson, AZ

Recommended for Rejection by the USBC Board of Directors

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION: Not requiring individuals to bowl a certain number of pins below ones average could provide the opportunity for manipulation of scores as this no longer requires the players to earn points when bowling in a known forfeit situation.

RULES PROPOSAL NO. TR 1

Decision

- Approve
 Reject

PRESENT RULE...

USBC Playing Rules

Chapter 6, Tournament Rules

Rule 319a, Averages – Conditions that Apply

The following conditions apply to averages in handicap or classified tournaments, unless the tournament rules state otherwise, except that only USBC league averages shall be accepted. (See Rule 319c for average adjustment.)

1. The bowler is required to submit the previous season's highest average of:
 - a. A single USBC league average based on a minimum of 21 games; or
 - b. A composite average of all USBC leagues, including leagues with less than 21 games bowled.
2. When the previous season's average is used, and at the time of bowling an entrant has a current average for 21 or more games that is 10 pins or more higher than the prior season's average, the current average must be used.
3. Bowlers are responsible for verifying his/her own average, whether submitted by the bowler, the team captain or others. If the submitted average is lower than required and results in a lower classification or more handicap, the bowler's score is disqualified. If the submitted average is higher than required, prize winnings will be based on the submitted average. In the case of a team of two or more bowlers, the averages will be combined to determine if the correct total is higher or lower than the submitted total.
4. Average corrections can be made up to the end of the bowler's first game of a series. Or, if an extension of time has been granted in writing by tournament management before the end of the first game of a series, the correction can be made within 48 hours after the end of the series.

PROPOSAL...

In Item 1, delete "highest average of";

Delete Item 1a;

In Item 2 add the word "composite" after each occurrence of "season's" and "current"

If adopted, Rule 319a will read:

The following conditions apply to averages in handicap or classified tournaments, unless the tournament rules state otherwise, except that only USBC league averages shall be accepted. (See Rule 319c for average adjustment.)

1. The bowler is required to submit the previous season's composite average of all USBC leagues, including leagues with less than 21 games bowled.
2. When the previous season's composite average is used, and at the time of bowling an entrant has a current composite average for 21 or more games that is 10 pins or more higher than the prior season's composite average, the current composite average must be used.
3. Bowlers are responsible for verifying his/her own average, whether submitted by the bowler, the team captain or others. If the submitted average is lower than required and results in a lower classification or more handicap, the bowler's score is disqualified. If the submitted average is higher than required, prize winnings will be based on the submitted average. In the case of a team of two or more bowlers, the averages will be combined to determine if the correct total is higher or lower than the submitted total.
4. Average corrections can be made up to the end of the bowler's first game of a series. Or, if an extension of time has been granted in writing by tournament management before the end of the first game of a series, the correction can be made within 48 hours after the end of the series.

REASON FOR PROPOSAL....

I feel that the total pins I accumulated in all of the leagues in which I was a team member should be added together and divided by the total number of games I bowled in total of those leagues to determine what is an "average" of my abilities. I want to be completely fair.

When a substitute or team member declines to finish a 3-game series because it puts him/her at the 21 game average reporting currently in use, it hinders the sport. It is also dishonest to deliberately select a ball that is ineffective for lane conditions, or to alter your target to decrease your score, but that is difficult to prove.

I believe that by using all the games bowled, a true representation will be in the wheelhouse for most bowlers. I can't fathom an increase of substantial amounts when all pins from all games from all houses are included in determining the average the bowler has accumulated for a season/year. It could happen, of course, which means somebody had a great year on the lanes!!

I would HOPE that tournament play would be geared toward using the accumulated averages, because most of us are bowling in a "strange" house for tournaments. Telling someone like me, who aced an easy shot over the course of about 42 games that I have to use that higher average (over 10 pins) than five (5) other leagues, 3 of which I bowled over 90 games, seems "unfair". It also means possibly replacing me with someone who is able to use a more realistic average. Using an average ten pins higher than any other league I completed discourages me, as I know the true caliber of my abilities on any given day/night.

I would go so far as to say include ALL the games bowled in EVERY league, just to make the average a true representation of a bowler's ability and to eliminate the quitting to avoid the inclusion of more successful competition. That was my point initially!

As far as the 10 pin increase goes, if a bowler has actually accumulated an average that IS in excess of 10 pins over the previous season, then that's the average to be used. I know there will still be bowlers who will short-change themselves for an advantage in tournament play, but tournament organizers often will adjust a bowler's average when the entering average is suspiciously off from the tournament scores.

In summary, I feel the best way to determine the average a person should carry from one season to the next is by adding all the pins accumulated in all the sanctioned leagues bowled and dividing by the number of games bowled. I would hope tournament organizations would adopt the use of the accumulated average for their events.

Presented by: Phyllis Branche
Fresno, CA

Recommended for Rejection by the USBC Board of Directors

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION: Tournaments currently can adopt the use of composite averages in their entering average rules. Even with this option, Rules confirms the vast majority of tournaments currently require the use of the players highest average as the standard for entry purposes.

RULES PROPOSAL NO. TR 2

Decision

- Approve
- Reject

PRESENT RULE...

USBC Playing Rules

Chapter: 6 – Tournament Rules

Rule 328 – Changing Delivery

In handicap and classified tournaments, once the bowler has taken his/her first shot, he/she shall continue to use that hand throughout the tournament unless, due to injury, the bowler finds it impossible to continue bowling with the same hand. The bowler may seek approval of the tournament director to continue with the opposite hand.

Penalty: Disqualification in the event in which the violation occurs and loss of entry fee for that event.

PROPOSAL...

Delete the text in the rule and replace with the following:

“A player may, at any time, alternate their delivery from either left-, or right-hand delivery or to a two-hand delivery at any time during tournament competition. Using any method of delivery sequence in tournament competition is allowed.”

If adopted, Rule 328 will read:

A player may, at any time, alternate their delivery from either left-, or right-hand delivery or to a two-hand delivery at any time during tournament competition. Using any method of delivery sequence in tournament competition is allowed.

REASON FOR PROPOSAL....

A bowler should be able to use their knowledge and their ability to deliver the ball on the lane, using any delivery style at any time, to adjust to the lane conditions to score as much as possible during any given competition, league, or tournament.

Presented by: James Stidvent
Tucson, AZ

Recommended for Rejection by the USBC Board of Directors

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION: Extending the ability of an individual to alternate the hand used for deliveries to handicap and classified competition increases the possibility of score manipulation